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CITY OF RIPON.

Reports of the
Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1923.

RIPON :

Marks, " Observer " Printing Works.



CITY OF RIPON.

Health, Building & Housing Committee

The Mayor.
(Mr. Alderman Hemsworth),

Chairman
Mr. Alderman Newton.

Members
Mr. Councillor Walker, *Deputy Chairman*.

Mr. Alderman Hargrave,

Mr. Councillor Benson,

„ Dixon,

„ Briscombe.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. W. D. Jefferson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary and Housing Inspector - A. Ashworth, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Veterinary Surgeon - J. R. Simpson, M.R.C.V.S.

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CITY OF RIPON.

Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
Year Ended 31st December, 1923.

Town Hall, Ripon,
April, 1924.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my thirteenth Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary conditions of the City.

This report is compiled in accordance with the memoranda of the Ministry of Health.

As regards the Health statistics, the report is the most satisfactory one I have had the pleasure of submitting to you.

The general death-rate, as well as the tuberculosis mortality, the infantile mortality, and the zymotic mortality, which comprise the chief conditions, and which it is the aim of preventive medicine to reduce, are all lower, so far as my records show for the last thirteen years.

The achievements of the past should encourage us to pursue with renewed vigour all those lines of sanitary improvement which experience teaches us to be sound, and which are likely to be rewarded with success.

Much remains to be done, but perhaps the two directions in which effort is specially needed, are improved housing conditions and education of the people in the ways of living. The purification of the atmosphere in public buildings and private houses is also another important problem.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	1812
Population, 1921	..	..	..	8321
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	2077
Rateable value	..	..	..	£45,404
Sum represented by one penny rate	..	..	..	£165

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The old City stands 130 feet above sea level and is situated at the confluence of the rivers Ure, Laver and the Skell.

The subsoil consists largely of gravel and is well drained.

There are industries in the district consisting of four varnish and paint manufacturers, two engineering firms and three saw mills.

The number of work people engaged on industrial work is not on an average more than 400, the district being more residential than industrial.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following figures give the uncorrected death and birth rates in the district :—

BIRTHS.

Males.	Females.	Total.	Illegitimate.
63	67	130	11

DEATHS WHICH OCCURRED IN THE CITY AT AGE GROUPS.

Ages.	Number.
Under 1 year	3
1 and under 2	0
2 „ 5	0
5 „ 15	4
15 „ 25	2

Deaths—continued.

25	„	45	..	..	..	9
45	„	65	..	..	..	23
65	„	70	..	..	..	14
Over 70 years of age			..	..	..	49
						<hr/> 104

Of the above deaths registered, 22 died in the Workhouse Infirmary and 7 in the Cottage Hospital.

CORRECTED STATISTICS.

The following gives the number and rates of births and deaths properly belonging to this district (i.e.) after births and deaths have been transferred to their own particular district.

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Births	..	..	69	75	144
Legitimate	..	..	62	69	131
Illegitimate	..	..	7	6	13
Deaths	..	..	44	54	98
Deaths of infants under 1 year			2	1	3
Birth Rate	..	..	17.45	per 1000	
Death Rate	..	..	11.88	„	
Infantile Mortality rate			20.83	„	births

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES FOR SMALL TOWNS, 1922.

Birth rate	..	..	..	19.8
Death rate	.	..	..	10.6

CAUSES OF DEATH.

			Males.	Females.
All causes	..	..	44	54
Influenza	..	..	0	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	..	4	2
Other tubercular diseases	..	..	1	1
Cancer malignant disease	..	..	7	8
Rheumatic fever	..	..	1	0
Diabetes	..	..	0	2
Cerebral hæmorrhage	.	..	2	2
Heart disease	..	..	5	9
Arterio-sclerosis	..	..	2	2
Bronchitis	..	..	6	4
Pneumonia, all forms	..	..	1	1

Causes of Death—continued.	Males.	Females.
Other respiratory diseases ..	0	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ..	1	0
Appendicitis and typhlitis ..	0	1
Acute and chronic nephritis ..	1	1
Congenital debility and malformation	0	0
Premature birth	1	1
Other deaths from violence ..	0	2
Other defined diseases ..	12	16

RECORD OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS SINCE 1911.

Year.	Births.	Deaths in public institutions.	Total deaths.	Death rate per 1000.	Deaths from zymotic diseases.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths over 65.
1911	163	20	137	16.50	3	28	56
1912	154	23	107	13.00	2	8	46
1913	148	23	111	13.50	1	14	58
1914	136	22	114	13.80	1	12	47
1915	153	56	194	23.04	19	17	83
1916	185	29	144	17.64	19	16	60
1917	169	*	117	13.43	5	15	0
1918	190	28	171	20.66	17	25	50
1919	167	*	145	17.07	2	25	0
1920	205	*	111	13.7	1	22	0
1921	205	*	97	11.67	1	8	0
1922	154	*	115	13.83	5	8	61
1923	144	29	98	17.45	0	3	63

* No record for these years.

RECORD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES SINCE 1911.

Year.	Scarlet fever.	Enteric fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Small-pox.	Puerperal fever.	Total.
1911	17	5	4	3			29
1912	7	2	8	3			20
1913	7	1	2	2		1	13
1914	18	0	6	8			32
1915*	8	1	47	1			57
1916*	17	0	38	9		1	65
1917*	4	0	11	4			19
1918	6	0	15	2			23
1919	11	0	9	2			22
1920	27	2	5	1		3	38
1921	12	1	2	0			15
1922	7	1	2	1			11
1923	2	0	2	1		1	6

* The high disease rates for 1915-16-17 was largely due to the overcrowding which arose from the establishment of a large camp at Ripon.

It will be noted that the record for 1923 is the lowest disease rate on record and the first time since my appointment that I am able to give a nil death return for zymotic diseases. I am pleased to show these figures and desire to point out that as sanitary reform progresses equally so does the disease rate diminish.

During the year measles and chickenpox have been included in the notifiable diseases and the following cases have been reported:—

Measles	..	..	22
Chickenpox	..	..	27

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

There has not been any sickness in the district, specially noteworthy during the year, except influenza, measles, and chickenpox.

The two latter, recently made notifiable, have always more or less been present, and it is unfortunate that we have no records for comparative statistics.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, &c.

The private nursing in the district is generally undertaken by the Nursing Home.

The County Council have an arrangement with the Nursing Home for the supply of nurses for district visiting, and also for the control of a Child Welfare Organization, which is doing very good work.

The district visitors call upon expectant mothers and frequently visit the homes until the mother is quite well, when every effort is made to influence the parents to attend the Child Welfare Centre.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5 to 10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 to 15	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
15 to 20	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
20 to 25	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
25 to 35	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
35 to 45	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
45 to 55	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
55 to 65	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	2	2	0	2	3	3	2	0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES ISOLATION.

The infectious disease hospital is situated within the City and is under the joint control of the City and Rural District Councils.

The Hospital is provided with an up-to-date steam disinfecter and has a cab ambulance for the removal of fever patients.

The horse ambulance is kept at Mr. Harbisher's, Allhallowgate, for other cases.

SMALLPOX HOSPITAL.

The hospital for smallpox is situated well out in the country, is a joint hospital for the use of Rural and City patients, but is maintained wholly by the City Council.

Fortunately this hospital has not been required for smallpox since 1904, but should an outbreak occur in the district, the consequences might be alarming on account of the vaccination exemption granted.

A rough estimate of unvaccinated children in the City under 10 years of age is 380.

The following figures show the exemption during the year 1923. The total number of children registered was 196.

Number vaccinated	..	..	..	125
Exemptions	..	..	..	38
Died unvaccinated	..	..	..	10
Not yet 4 months old	..	..	..	23
				<hr/>
				196

The number of cases of smallpox notified during the year in England and Wales was 2461, and in 1917, 6.

This is the blackest spot on the health record for the year 1923.

LABORATORY WORK.

All pathological and bacterial examinations are made at the County Laboratories and the present arrangements are highly satisfactory.

Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied free to the Local Medical Practitioners at the Isolation Hospital and is used in nearly all such cases.

WATER SUPPLY.

The City Waterworks, established 1884-5, is situated at Lumley Moor, about 7 miles from Ripon. The reservoir is estimated to have a capacity of 88,000,000 gallons, and has a

drainage area of 700 acres. The supply to the inhabitants is constant.

The quality of water supplied to the district is as follows :

County Analyst's Office,
Bradford,

January 17th, 1921.

Total solid matter	..	4.00
Chlorin (combined)	..	.40
Nitrates	..	none
Nitrogen as nitrates	..	none
Free ammonia	..	.0021
Albuminous ammonia	..	.0028
Lead	..	none
Total hardness (Clark's scale)		2.80

ANALYST'S COMMENTS.

This is a good soft water of the highest organic purity.

F. W. RICHARDSON

County Analyst.

RIVERS.

There are three rivers running through the City, the Laver, the Skell and the Ure. The water is very clear, and used for boiler and manufacturing purposes by several of the industries situated in Ripon.

SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

The sewers and sewage farm were constructed in 1895, and with the exception of a few isolated houses on the South side of the City (which discharge into septic tanks) the district is very well provided, both for present and future developments.

The drains of private dwelling houses have from time to time been renewed and this work will continue during the conversion of privy middens to water closets.

At present there are 398 privy middens and 180 pail closets, most of which are situated in the working class area.

During the year 51 privies have been substituted by water closets.

SCAVENGING.

All the dustbins are emptied weekly and in some cases twice per week. The privy conveniences are emptied monthly as far as possible.

RAINFALL FOR 1923.

Taken at Red House, Ripon. Yore Valley.

Rain Gauge:—Diameter of funnel, 5 inches ; height of top above ground, 1 foot ; above sea level, 120 feet.

January	..	1.46
February	..	5.25
March	..	1.64
April	..	1.69
May	..	2.45
June	..	.88
July	..	2.94
August	..	3.95
September	..	2.17
October	..	2.76
November	..	3.20
December	..	3.25

Total 31.64

(Signed) F. D. WISE.

Rainfall for 1923 taken at South Crescent, Ripon. Laver Valley.

January	..	1.71
February	..	5.36
March	..	1.89
April	..	1.93
May	..	2.98
June	..	.91
July	..	3.03
August	..	4.40
September	..	2.33
October	..	2.60
November	..	3.72
December	..	3.41

Total 34.27

(Signed) W. H. HUTCHINSON,
The Meads, Ripon.

The above two reports are very interesting, showing that the rainfall in the Laver Valley has been greater than in the Yore Valley.

INQUESTS.

During the year the Coroner (Dr. J. C. R. Husband) certified or held inquests on the cause of death of 7 citizens, as compared with 14 inquests in 1922.

They are classified as follows :

Deaths from Natural Causes :

Cardiac weakness, Syncope.

Bronchitis.

Arterio-Sclerosis.

Senile Dementia.

Deaths from Suicide or other Violence :

Accidents.

Killed by Motor Car.

Fractured Thigh.

Riding Motor Cycle.

TOTAL MARRIAGES IN RIPON, 1923.

Cathedral	..	38
Registry Office	..	38
Wesleyan Chapel		6
Holy Trinity	..	2
Zion	..	1
		—
Total	..	85

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health, Dr. W. D. Jefferson.

Sanitary and Housing Inspector, Mr. A. Ashworth, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Veterinary and Meat Inspector, J. R. Simpson, M.R.C.V.S.

Mr. Ashworth was appointed, and took up his duties September 1st, Mr. Hill having obtained a new appointment at Billingham.

Mr. Simpson has been appointed Veterinary Inspector under the Milk and Dairies Act, for the purpose of inspecting dairy cows for tuberculosis.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	..	..	..	2
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923 :				
(i) By the Local Authority	..	..		0
(ii) By other bodies or persons		..		0

1. Unfit dwelling-houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	60
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ..	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	28

* Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ..
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..

* It is impossible to deal with these until such times as there are erected sufficient houses to provide alternate accommodation.

I wish to offer my sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Health Committee for his encouragement and help, and to the members for their courtesy and willingness to, at all times, consider suggestions for the improvement of the work of this department.

I have the honour to remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. D. JEFFERSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

CITY OF RIPON.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

FOR THE

Year Ended 31st December, 1923.

Town Hall, Ripon,

January, 1924.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report of the City of Ripon for the year 1923, detailing as far as possible the whole of the work carried out in this department during the year. A record of these nuisances, etc., was prepared up to the end of August by my predecessor, Mr. Hill, which have given me great assistance in preparing this final report. My thanks are therefore extended to Mr. Hill for his work.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

At the beginning of the year there were 55 nuisances outstanding. Of these, 43 have been abated, and are included in the list of work carried out.

Nuisances.			Number.
Privy middens abolished	..	..	.. 51
Pan closets	..	..	.. 6
Ashpits abolished (dry)	..	..	.. 1
Waste water closets abolished..	..	..	.. 1

Public Health—continued.

Nuisances.	Number.
Wash down w.c. substituted in lieu of privy and other insanitary conveniences	58
Inspection Chambers constructed in connection with privy conversion and other house drainage	38
Choked drains opened out	27
Houses entirely re-drained	12
Defective house drains repaired	15
Houses connected to sewer in lieu of cesspool drainage	4
Additional water closets provided	6
W.C. pedestals renewed	8
Dipstone traps substituted by gullies	2
Houses provided with sinks with trapped waste pipes	5
Houses provided with proper water supply	10
Dustbins provided in lieu of middens, etc.	59
Dust bins provided in lieu of defective bins	34
New pans provided in lieu to conveniences	15
Defective fall pipes dealt with	9
Eaves spouting dealt with	16
Roofs defective	6
Yard paving renewed	9
Dirty houses dealt with	2
Dirty sanitary conveniences	12
Miscellaneous	19
Breach of Bye-laws, lodging houses	1
Breach of Bye-laws, slaughter-houses	1
Reports to Surveyor's department	5
Reports to water department	2

In connection with the above, 156 preliminary and 26 formal notices have been served.

There are 26 nuisances carried forward to 1924. These are expected to be completed, as several are for the conversion of privy middens. It is hoped that as there are an undesirable quantity of this type of w.c., the work of conversion will be first and foremost during the next year or two.

INSPECTIONS, PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, &c.

Written complaints	29
Inspection of houses	214
Re-visits	189

Inspections—continued.

Rat infested premises	..	..	..	27
Meat food stores	..	..	..	26
Drains tested and examined	..	..	..	42
Picture Houses, &c.	..	..	..	10
Smoke observations	..	..	..	4
Common lodging houses	..	..	..	62
Ice cream premises	..	..	..	23
Cowsheds and milkshops	..	..	..	28
Bakehouses	..	..	..	36
Workshops	..	..	..	18

FOOD STUFFS CONDEMNED.

Corned beef	..	..	..	12 lbs.
Jam	..	..	..	52 tins
Stew	..	..	..	9 tins

HOUSING ACTS.

Under the Housing Regulations, 1910, sixty houses have been inspected and recorded in accordance with the order. Inspections were made in respect to the property at Queen's Head Yard and Hussar Yard, and it was thought that proceedings taken under Section 91 of the Public Health Act, 1875, would have an effect on the owners, but there are obstacles to surmount which place the Council in a quandary, as condemnation notices were served, and expired during 1913, but no alternate accommodation has been forthcoming to assist in relieving this unpleasant situation.

Defects reported as follows:—

Floors of living room defective	..	..	4
Window frames defective	..	..	12
Windows fixed (no ventilation)	..	..	5
Doors defective	..	..	1
Staircases unsafe or defective	..	..	1
Roofs defective	..	..	11
Cooking range or fireplace defects	..	..	6
Plaster of walls	..	..	7
Damp houses	..	..	5
Eaves spouting absent or defective	..	..	32
Sink waste pipes	..	..	4
Yard paving defective	..	..	9
Miscellaneous	..	..	15
Privies	..	..	29

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

During the year 20 samples of food have been purchased and submitted for analysis, as follows:—

Milk ..	..	..	..	6
Strawberry Jam ..	..	..	..	1
Coffee ..	..	..	..	3
Oatmeal ..	..	..	..	1
Butter ..	..	..	..	7
Cocoa ..	..	..	..	2
Ground Rice ..	..	..	..	2
Egg Powder ..	..	..	..	2
Ground Almonds ..	..	..	..	2

One sample of milk showed signs of added water and the vendor appeared before the Committee to explain the reason of the deficiency. The Committee decided to reprimand him, and warned him of the result of any future offence.

WORKSHOPS.

Premises.	Number.	Inspections.
Bakehouses	11	29
Meat food preparation	4	10
Boot and shoe repairers	10	15
Basket maker	1	
Cabinet makers and joiners	6	
Dress and mantle makers	5	
Laundries	3	
Millinery	7	
Motor repairers	6	
Monumental masons	1	
Printers	4	
Plumbers	8	
Shoeing smiths	5	
Saddlers & saddle tree makers	5	
Tailors	8	
Wheelwright	1	
	85	54

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 14 slaughter houses in the City, five licensed, and the rest registered.

It is difficult for the inspection of these premises to be carried out efficiently owing to the distance between each other and the variation in the times of slaughtering.

One of the licensed premises in Central Hall Yard was in such a state as to render it totally unsuitable for the slaughtering of animals. The license will not be recommended for renewal unless works are carried out to render it suitable for the purpose.

VETERINARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

50 inspections have been made of the cow sheds and cattle housed therein. On each occasion the cattle were found in a healthy condition. There is still room for much improvement in the cleanliness of these premises, and I suggest that the Sanitary Inspector make special note of this, to effect a remedy during his visits of the year 1924.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. ASHWORTH,

Sanitary & Food & Drugs Inspector.







